

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 1 October 1992

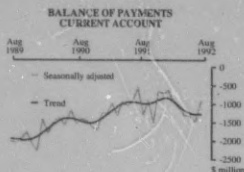
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Sharp drop in imports lowers August current account deficit

Seasonally adjusted, Australia's balance of payments current account deficit for August 1992 fell \$572 million or 39 per cent to \$903 million.

The fall in the deficit was mainly caused by a turnaround of \$442 million (from a deficit to a surplus) in the merchandise trade balance. Merchandise exports and imports fell 2 per cent and 11 per cent respectively. Falls of \$37 million (or 14%) in the net services deficit, and \$85 million (or 7%) in the net income deficit also contributed to the overall deficit.



BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
CURRENT ACCOUNT
\$ million

| | July 1992 | | August 1992 | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Original | Seasonally adjusted |
| Balance on merchandise trade | - 504 | - 104 | 154 | 338 |
| Net services | - 410 | - 265 | - 279 | - 228 |
| Balance on goods and services | - 914 | - 369 | - 125 | 110 |
| Net income | - 1,234 | - 1,241 | - 1,151 | - 1,156 |
| Net unrequited transfers | 168 | 135 | 172 | 143 |
| Balance on current account | - 1,980 | - 1,475 | - 1,104 | - 903 |

Details of the balance on merchandise trade in original terms are as follows:

Merchandise exports fell \$134 million, or 3 per cent, to \$4,679 million, mainly reflecting the fall in rural exports.

The notable falls in this category were in:

- ☐ cereals, down \$46 million, or 25 per cent;
- ☐ wool, down \$40 million, or 17 per cent; and
- ☐ meat, down \$27 million, or 9 per cent.

These falls were partially offset by rises in sugar, up \$16 million or 15 per cent; and 'other' rural exports, up \$6 million or 1 per cent.

Non-rural exports fell \$43 million (or 1%) with the largest falls recorded in:

- ☐ transport equipment, down \$71 million, or 32 per cent;
- ☐ 'other' metals, down \$44 million, or 10 per cent; and
- ☐ 'other' mineral fuels, down \$35 million, or 11 per cent.

Increases were recorded in gold, up \$146 million or 49 per cent; machinery, up \$20 million or 6 per cent; and 'other' manufactures, up \$9 million or 2 per cent.

Merchandise imports fell \$792 million, or 15 per cent to \$4,525 million. The major falls occurred in:

- ☐ machinery, down \$238 million, or 15 per cent;
- ☐ road vehicles, down \$141 million, or 25 per cent;
- ☐ fuels, down \$126 million, or 30 per cent;
- ☐ metals and metal manufactures, down \$64 million, or 22 per cent; and
- ☐ civil aircraft, down \$50 million to zero.

For further information, order the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5301.0), or contact Marie Flint on (06) 252 6689 or Peter Morrow on (06) 252 5540.

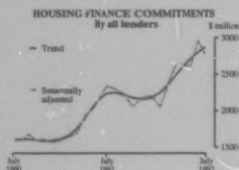
Home lending falls but trend still up

Seasonally adjusted, funds were committed to finance 35,707 dwelling units for owner occupation in July 1992, 1,951 dwelling units (5.2%) less than in June 1992 but 3,720 dwelling units (11.6%) more than in July 1991.

Falls were recorded in all three purpose of loan categories. The number of dwellings under construction financed was down 24 per cent on June, the number of newly erected dwellings financed was down 12.2 per cent and the number of established dwellings was down 54 per cent.

Provisional trend estimates, on the other hand, continued to show increases in each purpose of loan category, although the overall rate of increase has been showing a decline in recent months.

In original terms, the number of dwelling units financed in July 1992 was 36,498, 1.9 per cent more than in June 1992 and 10.1 per cent more than in July 1991.



HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, JULY 1992
Seasonally adjusted

| Purpose of commitment | Number of dwellings | Percentage change from | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | Previous month | Corresponding month of previous year |
| Construction of dwellings | 6,981 | -24 | 15.5 |
| Purchase of newly erected dwellings | 1,792 | -12.2 | 5.3 |
| Purchase of established dwellings | 26,934 | -54 | 11.1 |
| Total | 35,707 | -5.2 | 11.6 |

The number of dwellings being refinanced has increased significantly since this series began in July 1991. As a proportion of total new housing commitments refinancing accounted for 11.1 per cent in July 1992; compared with 6.1 per cent in July 1991.

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0), or contact John Carson on (06) 252 7110 or Harry Wilson on (06) 252 6170.

Manufacturing production in August

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)* contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-five seasonally adjusted). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten *Manufacturing Production Bulletins*.

In the table below eleven items show an increase on August 1991, with petrol-rotary type lawn mowers, electric motors and Portland cement showing significant increases. Fourteen items show a decrease, with woven woollen fabric, domestic refrigerators and motor vehicles for goods and materials showing the significant decreases.

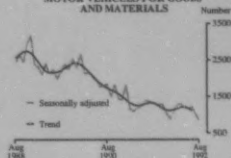
Generally, comparisons with the corresponding month of the previous year are a more reliable guide to trends, but should be read in conjunction with the more detailed data presented in the monthly publications, as production of manufacturing commodities can vary quite significantly on a month-to-month basis, even after seasonal adjustment.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION AUGUST 1992

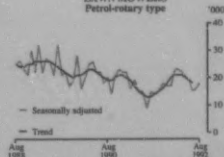
Seasonally adjusted, percentage change

| Product | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Petrol-rotary type lawn mowers | 14.3 | 35.7 |
| Electric motors | -6.7 | 18.8 |
| Portland cement | 2.8 | 13.6 |
| Gas available for issue through mains | 0.2 | 6.5 |
| Clay bricks | 2.9 | 5.9 |
| Other confectionery | 11.5 | 4.7 |
| Woven cotton fabric (including towelling) | 15.9 | 4.4 |
| Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging | -2.8 | 4.3 |
| Textile floor coverings | 14.6 | 3.4 |
| Sulphuric acid; oleum | -17.4 | 2.4 |
| Electricity | 2.2 | 1.2 |
| Cotton yarn | 7.2 | -0.1 |
| Television sets | 0.2 | -0.3 |
| Chocolate based confectionery | 4.5 | -1.0 |
| Beer | 2.0 | -2.8 |
| Wool yarn | 10.2 | -5.0 |
| Domestic clothes washing machines | -7.7 | -6.7 |
| Cars and station wagons | -4.8 | -7.4 |
| Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron | -7.1 | -8.7 |
| Woven man-made fibre fabric | -9.2 | -10.1 |
| Cigarettes and tobacco | -13.0 | -10.1 |
| Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms | -8.3 | -11.3 |
| Woven wool fabric (including blanketing) | -6.6 | -16.2 |
| Domestic refrigerators | -10.4 | -18.7 |
| Motor vehicles for goods and materials | -16.1 | -34.9 |

MOTOR VEHICLES FOR GOODS AND MATERIALS



LAWN MOWERS
Petrol-rotary type



Older males worst hit by long-term unemployment

Long-term unemployment (i.e. people unemployed for 52 weeks or more) increased markedly in the twelve months to August 1992.

Of the 906,400 people who were unemployed in August 1992, 313,200 (35%) had been unemployed for 52 weeks or more, an increase of 112,200 since August 1991. Of the long-term unemployed, 43 per cent had been looking for work for two years or more.

Some 56 per cent of people unemployed long term were aged under 35 years while people in this age group comprised 65 per cent of all unemployed persons.

These findings are among the results of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' monthly Labour Force Survey and published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). More detailed estimates of the characteristics of the long-term unemployed are available from a number of supplementary surveys conducted by the ABS.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
'000

| | Long-term unemployed | | | Total unemployed | | |
|--------|----------------------|---------|-------------|------------------|---------|---------|
| | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons |
| August | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 52.8 | 35.0 | 87.7 (19%) | 271.7 | 189.7 | 461.4 |
| 1987 | 115.7 | 56.3 | 172.0 (29%) | 347.1 | 255.0 | 602.0 |
| 1992 | 212.7 | 100.5 | 313.2 (35%) | 564.4 | 342.0 | 906.4 |

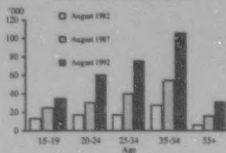
Numbers in brackets show long term unemployed as a percentage of total unemployed.

Other facts about the long-term unemployed in August 1992 include:

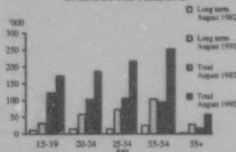
- ☐ 68 per cent were males (whereas males comprised 62% of all unemployed persons);
- ☐ 64 per cent had not held a full-time job (lasting at least two weeks) in the last two years;
- ☐ 11 per cent were looking for their first full-time job;
- ☐ 10 per cent had last worked full time for two weeks or more in the last two years in the manufacturing industry;
- ☐ 13 per cent had last worked full time for two weeks or more in the last two years as labourers and related workers while 7 per cent had worked as tradespersons; and
- ☐ Of unemployed males aged 35 years and over, 45 per cent were among the long-term unemployed, compared with 40 per cent for females in the same age group. For unemployed males aged 25 to 34 years, 38 per cent were long-term unemployed, and for females the comparable figure was 28 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0), or contact Don Clark on (06) 252 6525.

LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED



UNEMPLOYED PERSONS



Life in a changing Australia

If you need to keep up with emerging trends in all major aspects of Australian society, the Australian Bureau of Statistics' report *Social Indicators* is for you. It provides the latest social, labour and demographic statistics and informed commentary explaining the findings in over 350 fact filled pages.

Here are some examples of the information that can be drawn from the eight main sections of the publication.

Population

Today there are over 17 million Australians and 30 per cent are aged 45 years or more. The median age of the population has increased by ten years since 1901, to stand at 32.2 years in 1990.

Family

People are marrying later; in 1990 the median age at first marriage was 24 years for women and 26 years for men. The teenage marriage rate is now at its lowest level ever. Average family size has continued to fall.

Health

Life expectancy at birth has increased reaching 74 years for men and, for the first time, 80 years for women in 1990. The proportion of deaths due to ischaemic heart disease decreased throughout the 1980s while the proportion of deaths due to cancer increased.

Education

53 per cent of young people who left school in 1990 were continuing their education at University, TAFE college or other institutions in 1991. People with degrees have less than half the unemployment rate of people without qualifications.

Working life

In August 1991, 74 per cent of men, 52 per cent of all women and 53 per cent of married women were in the labour force. For persons unemployed, the average period of unemployment for people aged 35 to 54 years was 49 weeks compared with 25 weeks for those aged 15 to 19 years.

Income and expenditure

Among full-year full-time workers in 1989-90, women's earnings were about three-quarters those of men. Between 1984 and 1988-89, household budgets changed with increased spending on housing, medical, health and personal care, and decreased spending on tobacco, fuel, power and transport.

Housing

In 1988 there were 5.6 million private dwellings in Australia. Over 80 per cent of these were separate houses — 95 per cent of households have the telephone connected.

Leisure, cultural life and the environment

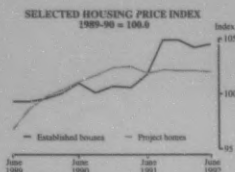
On average people spend almost one-quarter of their day on leisure activities — 94 per cent of the population watch television; less than half participate in sport.

For further information, order the publication *Social Indicators, Australia (4101.0)*, or contact your nearest ABS Bookshop (see page 10).

Established house prices steady

The Australian index for established house prices rose 0.2 per cent between the March and June quarters 1992. Falls in Melbourne (1.6%), Adelaide (1.5%) and Hobart (1.3%) largely offset rises in the other capital cities. As the chart at left shows, the national index has stabilised after rising quite sharply between March and September 1991.

In the year to June quarter 1992, the index rose 2.7 per cent. Annual movements ranged from a fall of 3.5 per cent (Melbourne) to a rise of 15.6 per cent (Canberra). The Australian index for project home prices fell 0.1 per cent between the March and June quarters 1992.



HOUSING PRICES, JUNE QUARTER 1992
Percentage change

| | Established houses | | Project homes | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | From previous quarter | From corresponding quarter of previous year | From previous quarter | From corresponding quarter of previous year |
| Sydney | 1.0 | 3.8 | -0.3 | -0.5 |
| Melbourne | -1.6 | -3.5 | -0.9 | -1.3 |
| Brisbane | 1.1 | 10.2 | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| Adelaide | -1.5 | 1.1 | -0.9 | -0.4 |
| Perth | 1.4 | 1.9 | 0.6 | 0.9 |
| Hobart | -1.3 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 3.4 |
| Darwin | 3.3 | 8.2 | 1.4 | 3.4 |
| Canberra | 2.3 | 15.6 | 2.3 | 13.4 |
| Weighted average of eight capital cities | 0.2 | 2.7 | -0.1 | 0.1 |

For further information, order the publication *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0), or contact Ian Buchanan on (06) 252 5754.

Synopsis of articles, September 1992

3 September 1992

Record imports drive current account deficit in July

Seasonally adjusted, Australia's balance of payments current account deficit for July 1992 grew \$159 million, or 13 per cent, to \$1,429 million.

Company profits climbing back despite June quarter dip

Pre-tax company profits fell back by five per cent seasonally adjusted in the June quarter 1992 after three quarters of solid growth.

Foreign liabilities rise again

The level of Australia's net foreign liabilities rose by 1.7 per cent to \$198,989 million in the three months to 30 June 1992 despite a reduction in the net liabilities of the official sector.

Building approvals up again

The total number of dwelling units approved (seasonally adjusted) in July 1992 was 13,849, an increase of 2.5 per cent over June, following a 1.9 per cent rise in that month.

Average weekly earnings pause

Final estimates for May 1992 showed a small decrease in average weekly ordinary time earnings of 0.3 per cent for full-time adults to \$587.30, down from \$589.20 in February 1992.

Inventory levels fall slightly — manufacturers' sales improve

The value of stocks owned by private businesses at the end of June 1992 was 0.4 per cent below the March 1992 estimate and 1.4 per cent lower than at the end of June 1991 in seasonally adjusted constant price terms.

Continued ...

Manufacturing production in July

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)* contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-five seasonally adjusted).

Road freight movement increases

Total interstate road freight moved by major operators during June quarter 1992 was 3.8 per cent higher than in March quarter 1992.

New vehicle registrations — still waiting for a green light

New motor vehicle registrations failed to climb off a six-month plateau in July 1992, with the trend estimate of total registrations falling by a slight 0.6 per cent in the month.

10 September 1992

Surge in business finance

Business finance activity, consisting of commercial finance commitments plus lease finance commitments, recorded a sharp increase of 45.4 per cent in June 1992 compared with the previous month.

Queensland tops three million as population grows steadily

The estimated resident population of Australia at 31 March 1992 was 17,486,300, an increase of 72,000 since 31 December 1991 and 247,000 since 31 March 1991. The population of Queensland maintained its relatively strong growth in the March quarter, and now exceeds three million for the first time.

Wine exports continue to grow

Exports of Australian wine were 68 million litres in the eleven months to May 1992, a stunning 36.6 per cent higher than for the same period a year earlier.

17 September 1992

Full-time employment falls again

After increasing for the first time in six months in July 1992, full-time employment (seasonally adjusted) fell again in August 1992.

Private sector employment back to November 1987 level

The number of employed wage and salary earners in the private sector has fallen to a level comparable to the that of November 1987, after growing to a peak in December 1989.

Strong growth in housing starts

The total number of dwelling units commenced in the June quarter 1992 (38,390) rose by 9.3 per cent over the previous quarter and by 27.2 per cent over the June quarter 1991 in seasonally adjusted terms.

Retail growth slows down

Monthly trend estimates of turnover for retail and selected service establishments show growth averaging 0.3 per cent over the three months ended July 1992, compared with an average growth rate of 0.7 per cent for the three months ended April 1992.

24 September 1992

Building material prices — small increase in July

Prices of building materials recorded small increases in July 1992.

Prices of manufactured goods rise as cost of materials increase sharply

The price index of goods produced by the manufacturing industry rose 0.4 per cent between June and July 1992, 1.6 per cent above its July 1991 level. This contrasted with higher increases in the cost of materials used in manufacturing — up 1.3 per cent in the month and 4.8 per cent in the year.

Export and import prices rise

Australia's international trade was conducted at higher average prices in July 1992 compared with the previous month and with July 1991. Export prices rose by 1.2 per cent between June and July 1992, while import prices rose by 2.0 per cent.

Birth rate falls in 1991

The number of births registered in Australia fell by two per cent to 257,247 in 1991.

Domestic care of the aged

Nearly 15 per cent (2,357,700) of the Australian population who lived in households in 1988 were aged 60 years or more.

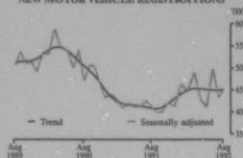
Motor vehicle usage down

Motor vehicles travelled a total of 150,000 million kilometres in Australia in the twelve months to 30 September 1991, a decline of 2.5 per cent from the corresponding period in 1988.

Wool clip down again in '91-92

Receipts of taxable wool fell 17.4 per cent in 1991-92 following a 3.5 per cent fall in 1990-91.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



New car sales marking time

The trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations continued to be flat for August 1992, with a rise of only 0.2 per cent from July. While passenger vehicles rose by 0.3 per cent, other vehicles showed no movement.

In seasonally adjusted terms, total new motor vehicle registrations rose 4.7 per cent.

In original terms, total new motor vehicle registrations for August 1992 fell 5.6 per cent, from 47,200 vehicles in July to 44,556. Passenger vehicles decreased 5.3 per cent while other vehicles decreased 7.1 per cent.

Registrations fell in all States/Territories except for the Northern Territory which showed a rise of 15.4 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia* (9301.0), or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

This week in brief ...

□ Viticulture

Preliminary figures from the 1991-92 viticulture collection indicate that:

- the total area of vines increased slightly to 60,413 hectares;
- the area of bearing vines increased by 1.5 per cent to 55,293 hectares;
- total production of grapes increased by 15.1 per cent to 979,747 tonnes;
- production for winemaking increased by 15.2 per cent to 561,594 tonnes, with South Australia increasing by 14.1 per cent to 331,701 tonnes;
- production of drying grapes increased by 16.7 per cent to 369,646 tonnes, with Victoria increasing by 17.8 per cent to 291,586 tonnes;
- table grapes increased by 4.1 per cent to 48,898 tonnes.

Source: *Viticulture, Australia, 1991-92, Preliminary* (7311.0).

□ Livestock products

Red meat production in original terms fell in all categories, except veal and mutton, in August 1992 compared with July 1992.

However in seasonally adjusted terms there was an increase in total production of 8.8 per cent.

The number of live sheep exported in June 1992 rose 20 per cent compared with May 1992. Compared with June 1991, live sheep exports have risen 100.5 per cent.

Chicken slaughterings for August 1992 fell 16.2 per cent compared with July 1992 with a consequent decrease of 19.9 per cent in meat produced. For the month of August 1992 compared with August 1991, chicken slaughterings rose 3.3 per cent.

Source: *Livestock Products, Australia, August 1992* (7215.0).

Continued ...

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order
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- ☐ by facsimile
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- ☎ (06) 252 6627
- ☎ (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

- ☎ NSW (02) 268 4611
- Vic. (03) 615 7000
- Qld (07) 222 6351
- WA (09) 323 5140
- SA (08) 237 7100
- Tas. (002) 20 5800
- NT (089) 432 111

☐ Engineering construction activity

Expressed at average 1984-85 prices, seasonally adjusted, the value of engineering construction work done during the June quarter 1992 was \$1,863.0 million, an increase of 1.7 per cent over the March quarter 1992 estimate of \$1,832.7 million and a decrease of 7.2 per cent over the June quarter 1991 estimate. Work done for the public sector rose by 3.5 per cent while work done for the private sector fell by 2.8 per cent.

Source: *Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, June Quarter 1992* (8762.0).

All the week's releases: 23 to 29 September

General

- Publications Advice, 25 September 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Publications Advice, 29 September 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Statistics Weekly, 24 September 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
- Australian Economic Indicators, September 1992 (1350.0; \$26.00)
- Register of Victorian Government Data Collections and Data Bases, 1992 (1106.2; \$45.00) — *new issue*
- Local Government, WA, 1990-91 (1303.5; \$15.00)

Social statistics

- Apparent Consumption of Foodstuffs and Nutrients, Aust., 1989-90 (4306.0; \$37.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts, Sept 1991 to March Qtr 1992 (5232.0; \$40.00)
- Balance of Payments, Aust., August 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)
- Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., July 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)

Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., August 1992 (6203.0; \$16.00)
- Sex and Ethnicity in the Australian Labour Market: The Immigrant Experience, (6252.0; \$35.00) — *new issue*
- Information Paper: Release of Regional Labour Force Statistics, Aust., (6262.0; free)
- Persons Employed at Home, Aust., March 1992 (6275.0; \$12.50)
- Occasional Paper: Birthplace Differences in Occupational Attainment, (6282.0; \$15.00) — *new issue*
- Occasional Paper: Sex Differences in Occupational Attainment, (6283.0; \$15.00) — *new issue*
- House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, June Qtr 1992 (6416.0; \$27.00)
- Information Paper: Australian Consumer Price Index 12th Series Review, (6450.0; free)

Agriculture

- Livestock Products, Aust., August 1992 (7215.0; \$7.50)
- Viticulture, Aust., 1991-92, Preliminary (7311.0; \$10.00)
- Livestock and Livestock Products, NSW, 1990-91 (7221.1; \$21.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

- Manufacturing Production, Aust., August 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, July 1992 (8357.0; \$8.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, July 1992 (8358.0; \$10.50)

Subscriptions

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, July 1992 (8359.0; \$10.50)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, July 1992 (8360.0; \$10.50)

Engineering Construction Activity, Aust., June Qtr 1992 (8762.0; \$10.50)

Building Activity, Vic., June Qtr 1992 (8752.2; \$10.50)

Tourist Accommodation, WA, June Qtr 1992 (8635.5; \$20.00)

Building Approvals, SA, August 1992 (8731.4; \$10.50)

Building Activity, SA, June Qtr 1992 (8752.4; \$10.50)

Building Activity, NT, June Qtr 1992 (8752.7; \$10.50)

Transport

Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., August 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, August 1992 (9303.3; \$10.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 13 October 1992

September

30 Building Approvals, Australia, August 1992 (8731.0; \$13.00)

October

1 Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, August 1992 (6354.0; \$12.00)

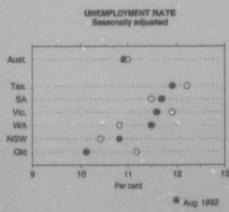
8 The Labour Force, Australia, September 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)

12 Retail Trade, Australia, August 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

29 September 1992



| | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| — Percentage change from same period previous year — | | | | | | | | | |
| New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92) [†] | -33.1 | -21.8 | -18.4 | -24.7 | -1.5 | 5.7 | n.a. | n.a. | -22.8 |
| Retail turnover (July 92) (trend estimate) | 4.5 | 3.9 | 8.7 | -2.8 | 6.9 | 5.1 | n.a. | 5.4 | 4.8 |
| New motor vehicle registrations (Aug. 92) [†] | -0.3 | 24.8 | 20.1 | 2.1 | 16.8 | 8.0 | 16.9 | -33.3 | 10.2 |
| Number of dwelling unit approvals (July 92) [†] | 3.2 | 16.0 | 16.6 | -2.4 | 33.2 | 27.1 | 193.3 | 65.7 | 16.3 |
| Value of total building work done (Mar. qtr 92) | -22.0 | -15.8 | 9.3 | -23.5 | -14.6 | 26.9 | -3.6 | 7.3 | -13.3 |
| Employed persons (Aug. 92) [†] | -0.4 | -1.0 | 2.8 | -0.2 | 0.5 | -0.2 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 92) | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 1.2 |
| Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 92) | 7.5 | 3.3 | 1.6 | 6.0 | 3.7 | 4.3 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 4.7 |
| Population (June 91) | 1.3 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 1.2 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 2.9 | 1.5 |
| Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Mar. qtr 92) | 1.7 | 4.4 | 8.0 | 0.5 | 5.1 | -0.7 | 14.6 | 2.4 | 4.0 |

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 29 September 1992

| | | Period | Latest figure available | | Percentage change (a) on | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Previous period | Corresponding period last year | |
| National production | | | | | | | |
| Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices | \$m | June qtr 92 | n.a. | 65,000 | 0.6 | 1.6 | |
| Industrial activity | | | | | | | |
| New capital expenditure — current prices | \$m | June qtr 92 | 5,749 | 5,511 | 0.7 | -15.4 | |
| — 1984-85 prices | " | " | 4,604 | 4,407 | 2.0 | -12.0 | |
| Expected new capital expenditure | " | Six months to Dec. 92 | 12,157 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | |
| Retail turnover — current prices | " | July 92 | 7,861 | 7,973 | 0.6 | 4.0 | |
| — 1984-85 prices | " | June qtr 92 | 15,253 | 15,785 | 1.6 | 4.9 | |
| New motor vehicle registrations | no. | Aug. 92 | 44,556 | 45,365 | 4.7 | 10.2 | |
| Dwelling unit approvals (e) | " | July 92 | 14,536 | 13,849 | 2.5 | 16.3 | |
| Value of all building approvals (e) | \$m | July 92 | 1,893 | 1,858 | 8.2 | -0.1 | |
| Value of total building work done — current prices | " | Mar. qtr 92 | 5,278.8 | 5,739.3 | -0.1 | -13.3 | |
| — 1984-85 prices | " | " | 3,432.4 | 3,731.8 | 0.7 | -10.8 | |
| Manufacturers' sales — current prices | " | June qtr 92 | 35,443 | 35,599 | 1.1 | 3.8 | |
| — 1984-85 prices | " | " | 24,478 | 24,601 | 1.2 | 3.1 | |
| Expected manufacturers' sales | " | Six months to Dec. 92 | 73,674 | n.a. | n.a. | 2.3 | |
| Labour | | | | | | | |
| Employed persons | '000 | Aug. 92 | 7,679.3 | 7,731.6 | -0.2 | 0.1 | |
| Unemployment rate † | % | " | 10.6 | 10.9 | -0.1 | 1.1 | |
| Participation rate † | " | " | 62.6 | 63.2 | -0.3 | -0.1 | |
| Job vacancies (f) | '000 | May 92 | 24.3 | 24.8 | -6.9 | -3.4 | |
| Average weekly overtime per employee (f) | hours | " | 1.09 | 1.10 | -1.5 | -1.7 | |
| Prices, profits and wages | | | | | | | |
| Consumer price index 1989-90 = 100.0 | | June qtr 92 | 107.3 | n.a. | -0.3 | 1.2 | |
| Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984-85 = 100.0 | | July 92 | 126.2 | n.a. | 1.3 | 4.8 | |
| Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988-89 = 100.0 | | July 92 | 113.2 | n.a. | 0.4 | 1.6 | |
| Company profits before income tax | \$m | June qtr 92 | 3,133 | 3,426 | -4.6 | 45.0 | |
| Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) | \$ | May 92 | 587.30 | n.a. | -0.3 | 4.7 | |
| Interest rates (b) (monthly average) | | | | | | | |
| 90-day bank bills † | % per annum | July 92 | 5.55 | n.a. | -0.85 | -4.55 | |
| 10-year Treasury bonds † | " | " | 8.30 | n.a. | -0.60 | -2.70 | |
| Balance of payments | | | | | | | |
| Exports of merchandise | \$m | Aug. 92 | 4,679 | 4,706 | -2.2 | 1.6 | |
| Imports of merchandise | " | " | -4,525 | -4,368 | -11.1 | 15.9 | |
| Balance on merchandise trade (c) | " | " | -154 | 338 | n.a. | -60.9 | |
| Balance of goods and services (c) | " | " | -125 | 110 | n.a. | -84.4 | |
| Balance on current account (c) | " | " | -1,104 | -903 | -38.8 | -61.8 | |
| Terms of trade (d) | 1984-85 = 100.0 | June qtr 92 | n.a. | 99.0 | -1.2 | -1.0 | |
| Foreign investment | | | | | | | |
| Net foreign debt | \$m | 31 Mar. 92 | 148,124 | n.a. | 2.4 | 7.6 | |
| Net foreign liabilities | " | " | 199,312 | n.a. | 3.4 | 10.9 | |
| Exchange rates (monthly average) | | | | | | | |
| US\$ | per \$A | Aug. 92 | 0.7258 | n.a. | -2.6 | -7.2 | |
| Trade weighted index | May 1970 = 100.0 | " | 53.1 | n.a. | -2.9 | -12.1 | |
| Other indicators | | | | | | | |
| Population (resident at end of qtr) | million | Mar. 92 | 17.5 | n.a. | 0.4 | 1.4 | |
| Overseas visitor arrivals (f) | '000 | June 92 | 177 | 218 | 1.7 | 5.6 | |

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 30 September 1992. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 1 October 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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